

## Message Text

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51

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

EB-11 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 PA-04 USIA-15

PRS-01 SP-03 IO-14 SS-20 NSC-07 SCSE-00 SCA-01 DRC-01

/116 W

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P 041250Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5275

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

UNCLAS GABORONE 0437

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, BC, MI, SF

SUBJ: CRASH OF WENELA DC-4 AT FRANCISTOWN KILLS SEVENTY-SEVEN

DEPT PASS FAA AND TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

LAGOS FOR FAA

1. GOVT. OF BOTSWANA HAS REPORTED THAT A DOUGLAS DC-4 OPERATED BY THE WITSWATERSRAND NATIVE LABOR ASSOCIATION (WENELA) CARRYING MALAWIAN MINERS WHO HAD COMPLETED THEIR SERVICE IN SOUTH AFRICA BACK TO MALAWI CRASHED ON TAKEOFF FROM FRANCISTOWN, BOTSWANA AIRPORT EARLY ON MORNING OF 4 APRIL. EXACT DETAILS OF CRASH NOT YET AVAILABLE, HOWEVER FIRST REPORTS FROM GOB AND S.A. CHAMBER OF MINES STATE THAT SEVENTY-SEVEN (77) OUT OF TOTAL OF EIGHTY-FOUR PASSENGERS AND CREW KILLED. OF SEVEN SURVIVORS, SIX ARE BEING TREATED AT FRANCISTOWN HOSPITAL.

2. REPORT FROM S.A. CHAMBER OF MINES STATED THE MALAWIANS HAD UNCLASSIFIED

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COMPLETED THEIR CONTRACTS IN S.A. GOLD MINES AND HAD BEEN TAKEN

BY TRAIN FROM SOUTH AFRICA TO FRANCISTOWN WHERE THE MINE LABOR ORGANIZATION, WENELA AND AIR MALAWI OPERATE AIR SERVICES TO CARRY MINERS TO AND FROM BLANTYRE. REPORT NOTED THAT THIS FIRST FATAL AIR CRASH SINCE SERVICE BEGAN IN JANUARY 1952.

3. BOTSWANA'S PRESIDENT KHAMA HAS SENT MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE TO PRESIDENT BANDA OF MALAWI.

4. WILL REPORT DETAILS OF CRASH AS AVAILABLE. FIRST REPORTS INDICATE NO AMERICAN CITIZENS AMONG VICTIMS.  
BISHOP

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AIRCRAFT ACCIDENTS, DEATHS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 APR 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** shawdg  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 31 MAY 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <31 MAY 2002 by bryansd0>; APPROVED <17 DEC 2002 by shawdg>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CRASH OF WENELA DC-4 AT FRANCISTOWN KILLS SEVENTY-SEVEN DEPT PASS FAA AND TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD  
**TAGS:** ETRN, BC, MI, SF, WENELA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005